

judges it needs. According to the 2007 recommendations of the Judicial Conference of the United States, California needs a total of 12 new judges—more judges than are needed in any other State in the Nation. Four of those judges are needed in the Eastern District. By adding a temporary judgeship in the Eastern District, this bill will begin to meet that need.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this bill and pleased that the Senate has passed it.

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize the United Nations International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development, IVD. I strongly support international volunteering because of the mutual personal and cultural benefits it yields to both those who volunteer and those who benefit from volunteer efforts. Volunteering is one of the more meaningful ways for us to address very significant needs and develop a common understanding throughout our interconnected world.

Volunteering overseas regularly changes perspectives for the better. My constituents often share their stories about these international experiences, and I am always pleased to hear them talk about how it broadened their understanding and deepened their compassion for other cultures. Today, some of the greatest threats to our national security are based on, or feed upon, a false impression of who the American people are and what we care about. To reverse these erroneous impressions we need to share and make clear the qualities of empathy and kindness that are central to our heritage. American volunteerism abroad is not only a simple act of benevolence—an effort to improve the lives of others—but it is also one of our best resources to create greater, more meaningful interaction and common points of reference and to build strong relationships throughout the world.

Claudia from Milwaukee wrote me recently about her first international volunteer experience. She said, “I have always had a desire to travel and explore. . . . Most recently, I had the opportunity to volunteer internationally with Cross-Cultural Solutions in Lima, Peru . . . which brought out every emotion we have. While in Lima, I worked with the elderly of Villa El Salvador, many of whom are abused, neglected and in poor health. Villa El Salvador, which is outside of Lima, is a shantytown built on the sand dunes in 1970. The warmth and love felt from the people was unbelievable. I also had the opportunity to participate in home visits. Seeing how people live with very little, most with only one or two rooms, many with dirt floors and some having no indoor plumbing, makes me realize that it's not the possessions we have in life but life itself. . . . We are one world, one planet. We do need to share it as one.”

I believe every American should have the opportunity to volunteer overseas and experience firsthand, like Claudia, how crucial this kind of assistance is to building meaningful personal understanding and international relationships as well as contributing to the development of nations. For this reason, I introduced the Global Service Fellowship Act, S. 1464, which creates an international volunteer program designed to provide more opportunities for people-to-people engagement. The bill reduces two key barriers that Americans face when volunteering overseas—cost and time limitations. First, the Global Service Fellowship Act reduces financial barriers by awarding fellowships that can be applied towards airfare, housing, or program costs, to name a few examples. By providing financial assistance, the Global Service Fellowship Program opens the door for every American to be a program participant—not just those with the resources to pay for it.

Second, this bill offers flexibility in the length of time for which an individual can volunteer. I often hear from constituents who do not seek opportunities to participate in Federal volunteer programs because they cannot leave their jobs or family for years at a time. The Global Service Fellowship Program provides a commonsense approach to the time constraints of many Americans who seek volunteer opportunities by offering a timeframe that works for them—from a month up to a year.

My bill would broaden the spectrum of Federal volunteer opportunities already made available by our Government. Given the increasingly negative perception of the United States overseas, we need more support for international volunteerism now more than ever. My constituents who engage in such opportunities are proof of how we can both inform ourselves of the needs and nature of our foreign neighbors and also directly change attitudes about the United States for the better.

For these reasons, today marks a special day for me and, in particular, for my constituents who have shared with me their stories of hope and fulfillment from their international experiences. It is my wish that all of us will have these types of experiences and that this day will remind us of—and encourage us to participate in—the very meaningful opportunities and benefits offered by international volunteer initiatives.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ED SHINODA

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I would like to commend Ed Shinoda for receiving the Organization of Chinese Americans', OCA, Asia Pacific American Corporate Achievement Award. October 19, 2007, he was recognized in Las Vegas, NV, for his work at the

United States Parcel Service, UPS, as a Pacific region manager. He has been at UPS since 1975, where he started as a part-time loader.

The OCA was founded in 1973 to advance the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans. With 50 chapters across the Nation, including one in Hawaii, OCA helps citizens achieve their aspirations and improve their lives. The organization also facilitates the development of leadership and involvement in the community.

The Asia Pacific American Corporate Achievement Award was given to twelve individuals this year. This national program recognizes the achievements of Asian Pacific Americans in the corporate world, and their service to the community. Those honored were nominated by their employers, and then selected by a panel of judges.

Ed is currently the UPS Hawaii Operations Manager and is responsible for all UPS operations in Hawaii. Throughout his time at UPS, Ed has served in various leadership positions and is now one of the highest ranking Asian Pacific Americans at UPS. Ed not only works hard at UPS, but also in the community. He has participated in programs such as Neighbor-to-Neighbor, Global Volunteer Week, and the United Way campaign.

In addition to working hard and being involved in the community, Ed also supports fellow Asian Pacific American communities. He has served in organizations such as the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce, and the Hong Kong Business Association. He helped found “A Safe Place,” an organization which works with children whose parents have been incarcerated. Ed is a hard-working individual, and I wish him and his family a warm aloha and best wishes.●

HALEIWA SUPER MARKET CENTENNIAL

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Haleiwa Super Market of Haleiwa, HI, on celebrating its 100-year anniversary. The store was opened by Kasaku Sakai, a Japanese plantation contract worker, and has since been run by four generations of the Sakai family.

Since opening in 1907, the store has expanded from a small grocery store to a full service supermarket. The business has changed locations several times in order to accommodate the store's increasing size. It has provided the residents of Haleiwa town with an invaluable resource throughout its many years. For example, during WWII, the store operated by credit, and its customers were not required to pay interest on their outstanding balances. Debts were often forgiven for families that were unable to pay. Now, both tourists and locals stroll the aisles of the Haleiwa Super Market for its fresh